

2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: National Sea Grant Advisory Board

Report Run Date: 06/05/2019 04:14:56 AM

1. Department or Agency

Department of Commerce

2. Fiscal Year

2018

3. Committee or Subcommittee

National Sea Grant Advisory Board

3b. GSA Committee No.

100

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

08/09/2018

6. Expected Renewal Date

08/09/2020

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Yes

10b. Legislation Pending?

Pending

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

33 U.S.C. 1121 et.seq. P.L. 94-461

13. Effective Date

10/08/1976

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

8

16b. Report

Date

Report Title

11/06/2017 2016 State of Sea Grant Biennial Report to Congress

06/04/2018 2018 State of Sea Grant Biennial Report to Congress

11/01/2010 2010 State of Sea Grant [Biennial Report to Congress]

09/01/2012 2012 State of Sea Grant [Biennial Report to Congress]

10/07/2014 2014 State of Sea Grant [Biennial Report to Congress]

11/12/2016 2016 State of Sea Grant [Biennial Report to Congress]

06/01/2018 2018 State of Sea Grant [Biennial Report to Congress]

05/09/2016 Final Report of the PIE II Assessment Committee [Program Implementation and Evaluation (PIE) II Review Committee]

Number of Committee Reports Listed: 8

17a. Open 2 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 2

Meetings and Dates

Purpose

Start

End

Meeting was to discuss and provide advice on the National Sea Grant College Program (NSGCP) in the areas of program evaluation, strategic planning, education, and extension, science and technology programs, and other matters including the Biennial Report to Congress, opportunities to partners with NOAA's weather portfolio, and to share ideas for the future of Sea Grant.

03/06/2018 - 03/07/2018

To discuss the role of the Board in the National Sea Grant College Program quadrennial evaluation and to approve the 2018 Biennial Report to Congress

05/14/2018 - 05/14/2018

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 2

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$60,740.00	\$122,900.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$38,918.00	\$58,000.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$112,123.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$75,216.00	\$135,000.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$200,000.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$73,239.00	\$90,000.00
18d. Total	\$560,236.00	\$405,900.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.50	0.70

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Sea Grant Advisory Board generally meets in-person twice annually and by conference call as necessary to consider reports from the Advisory Board working groups. The Advisory Board has responsibility to advise on the performance of the National Sea Grant College Program, the status of Sea Grant programs, and the implementation of Planning, Implementation and Evaluation system.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The current membership is balanced to meet the legislative requirement that. Not less than 8 of the voting members of the advisory Board are individuals who, by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in one or more of the disciplines and fields included in marine science. The other voting members are individuals who, by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in, or representative of, education, marine affairs and resource management, extension services, State government, industry, economics, planning, or any other activity which is appropriate to, and important for, any effort to enhance the understanding, assessment, development, utilization, or conservation of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. Additionally, as part of the Board charter, there is a required balance plan which include information and plans for recruitment and diversity.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The National Sea Grant Advisory Board meets at least twice annually. All meetings and site visits are relevant to the Sea Grant Advisory Board's legislatively mandated responsibilities to provide advice to the Secretary of Commerce, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, and the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program on the performance, planning, and operation of the Sea Grant program.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

By legislation, the Sea Grant Advisory Board is required to advise the Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program concerning (A) strategies for utilizing the sea grant college program to address the Nation's highest priorities regarding the understanding, assessment, development, management, utilization, and conservation of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources (B) the designation of sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes and (C) such other matters as the Secretary refers to the Board for review and advice. The National Sea Grant College Program is a complex program involving more than 300 universities that participate through 33 university-based Sea Grant programs located in all coastal and Great Lakes states, including Guam and the Lake Champlain region. As can be seen, the Sea Grant legislation provides a strong role for an independent advisory body composed of experts in marine-related fields. The reason is the mandate given to Sea Grant, namely to develop the commitment and involvement of universities to achieve -- through research, education, and outreach -- greater understanding, assessment, development, utilization, and conservation of the nation's ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. The dedicated members of the Sea Grant Advisory Board provide valued advice on these issues to NOAA and the Department that is critically needed to achieve the mandate and oversee the development of the Sea Grant program. There is no other existing group sufficiently knowledgeable about Sea Grant's mission that could provide, over the long term, the balance and breadth of expert advice that is vitally important to a multifaceted, scientific-based program.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

N/A

21. Remarks

The National Sea Grant Advisory Board (Board) focused much of its efforts this fiscal year on finalizing the 2018 Biennial Report to Congress, and planning for the upcoming quadrennial evaluation of 34 Sea Grant programs. The cost increase for the estimated Board expenses in FY19 is due to the inclusion of an additional subcommittee member on each of 34 quadrennial site review visits. This increases the cost by approximately

\$55,000 (payments and travel). This additional was made after the Board's charter was approved. Additionally, individuals from the Board continued the Board's involvement in selecting Sea Grant Knauss Fellows, working on the Sea Grant Week Planning committee, and serving as Board liaisons for the Education, Extension and Communication network teams. Costs for the subcommittees are included in the budget for the parent committee.

Designated Federal Officer

Elizabeth J. Rohring Designated Federal Officer

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Baker, Dale	03/04/2013	03/05/2021	Retired, New York Sea Grant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Betzer, Peter	06/26/2017	03/04/2021	President & CEO, St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Birkholz, Patricia	09/01/2011	05/03/2018	Director, Michigan League of Conservation Voters	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Chigbu, Paulinus	03/04/2013	03/05/2021	Professor, University of Maryland	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Engle, Carole	09/02/2018	09/01/2022	Economist (Aquaculture)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Fortner, Rosanne	03/03/2013	03/05/2021	Retired, Ohio Sea Grant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Grau, Edward	02/07/2016	01/25/2020	Professor of Zoology at the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Gray, Judith	10/05/2015	10/05/2019	Retired, NOAA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Helmuth, Brian	10/05/2015	10/05/2019	Professor at the Marine Science Center at Northeastern University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hogarth, William	09/02/2018	09/01/2022	Retired	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
LaFeir, Letise	09/02/2018	09/01/2022	Program Officer, Resources Legacy Fund	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Mace, Amber	03/04/2013	03/05/2021	California Council on Science and Technology	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Murray, James	01/25/2016	01/25/2020	Retired, NOAA National Sea Grant College Program	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Norosz, Kristine	09/02/2018	09/01/2022	Fellow, Alaska Humanities Forum	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Orbach, Michael	08/30/2013	08/30/2018	Professor of the Practice of Marine Affairs and Policy, Duke Marine Lab	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Stirling, Deborah	09/02/2018	09/01/2022	Private Consultant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Vortmann, Richard	08/26/2013	08/26/2018	Retired, shipbuilding industry	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 17

Narrative Description

The Sea Grant Advisory Board is an essential part of NOAA's National Sea Grant College Program. The Advisory Board contributes to the NOAA goal, "Protect, restore, and

manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through ecosystem-based management,” by providing advice and oversight in several NOAA core capabilities including “Environmental Literacy, Outreach, and Education,” and “Sound, Reliable State of the Art Research.”

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Improvements to health or safety | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Trust in government | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Major policy changes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Advance in scientific research | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Effective grant making | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Improved service delivery | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Increased customer satisfaction | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| None | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Unable to Determine | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Under \$100,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$100,000 - \$500,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$500,001 - \$1,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Over \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cost Savings Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Cost Savings Comments

While we have not formally analyzed the cost savings associated with this Committee, anecdotal evidence suggests it is very high. This is based on documented changes made by the 33 Sea Grant programs that have resulted from the Advisory Board's reviews of performance and recommendations for improvements.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee

for the life of the committee?

2,035

Number of Recommendations Comments

In FY18, the National Sea Grant College Program received 7 recommendations from the Board from the 2018 Biennial Report to Congress, the Lake Champlain Sea Grant Institutional Review report, and the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Topical Advisory Team report.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

75%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

In FY18, the Board made 5 recommendations to the National Sea Grant College Program in their 2018 State of Sea Grant Biennial Report to Congress. Full implementation of these recommendations are contingent on the availability of federal funds in FY19. However during the FY18 year, the National Sea Grant Office worked to implement the recommendations from the 2016 State of Sea Grant biennial report to congress and has fully implemented 2 of the five (partially implemented the other three.) NOAA has also created a new Lake Champlain Institutional Program based on the recommendation of the Board with increased appropriations. Finally, the Board made recommendations to the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Program through a Topical Advisory Team review. In FY17, the Board made 13 recommendations to the National Sea Grant College Program and NOAA. Of these, many are still awaiting implementation of the FY16 recommendations and several require increased allocations to fully implement. In FY18 an FY16 Board recommendation to create a Lake Champlain Institutional Program in line with the Sea Grant Allocation plan, was approved and designated. Also, the Sea Grant/NOAA liaison program has been reviewed and a new organizational framework was created, however the program can't be expanded unless both Sea Grant and potential NOAA partner programs have specific needs and dedicated funding for these positions. Of the 30 recommendations from 2016, all are still being considered, but pertain to major shifts in how the programs are evaluated (from the PIE report) and won't be implemented until the FY18-FY21 quadrennial evaluation period begins in FY22.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

25%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

Recommendations from the Advisory Board are advisory in nature, and the majority are implemented; however, the National Sea Grant College Program and Individual Programs are not required to implement Advisory Board recommendations if they do not agree with them and/or have the current resources to do so. NOAA has partially implemented 3 of the five recommendations from the 2016 Biennial Report to Congress. The National Sea Grant Office is still trying to implement the recommendations of the PIE II committee many of which will be implemented during the upcoming FY18-FY21 quadrennial program evaluations. All are contingent on the availability of federal funds.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

The Advisory Board receives feedback through meetings of the Board's Executive Committee with the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and the Director of the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program and his staff. The full Advisory Board is briefed by staff of the NOAA National Sea Grant Office at Board meetings as to the status of the implementation of recommendations. The Board is included in a variety of listservs and announcements regarding information about the program and information relevant to the Board that is sent by the Director. The Director meets monthly with the Board Chair via phone.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

Actions based on the recommendations of the board frequently help in the organization of National Sea Grant College Program Priorities.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO



Online Agency Web Site



Online Committee Web Site



Online GSA FACA Web Site



Publications



Other



Access Comments

Sea Grant Advisory Board Website: <http://seagrants.noaa.gov/About/Advisory-Board>